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SPEAKER BROMM: Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...with the steps forward that the committee is attempting to take.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the Natural Resources Committee, in cooperation with our NRDs, we're trying to make progress. Senator Beutler, you may very well be right or wrong, depending on your...on everybody's personal opinion. I was here when the FIFRA act was implemented, and it was a federal mandate. And the question at that time, as I recall, is whether that would be implemented by the Department of Environmental Quality or the Department of Ag. And it was determined, maybe by political will, political force of the ag community in the state, that the Department of Ag should handle the FIFRA requirements. Right now, if you have insecticides that you're applying, and I think a very common insecticides are soil insecticide that you apply when you're planting, you have to follow the recommended rates. It is illegal to not to follow the recommended rates. And I don't know how much police actions the NRDs have done in this case, but if there is a misapplication, they have worked with the Department of Ag to correct those situations where it's taken place. It is with the Department of Ag now. The portion of the law that you say we're backing out, it was never intended to be in the law, should not have been there, was not intended to be there. And I don't believe the NRDs are utilizing that portion of the law. Now I say you may very well be correct on what you're saying, but if we want this bill to move forward in a smooth, orderly fashion and give the NRDs the ability to regulate the timing and the amount of fertilizer applied, then I would hope we will keep this issue out of it. From that standpoint, I'm going to oppose your amendment. I'm not questioning your intentions. Your intentions are honorable, but I'm going to oppose the amendment. We need to leave this authority right now with the Department of Ag, and I'm certain that if an NRD technician, or manager, or if someone brings it to their attention, I'm certain they will work with the Department of Ag to regulate this situation. A lot of our pesticides and herbicides are also applied by custom